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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DETACHMENT

AGO 403

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20 March 1950

TO : Mr. Benjamin Shute
Director of Intelligence
HICOG, APO 757
U.S. Army

FROM : Gordon M. Stewart

SUBJECT: Rainhard Gehlen

We believe that Gehlen is chiefly motivated by a desire for personal success and personal security, a sense of duty, patriotism, and a fear of and hatred for Communism. These characteristics are common to many former German officers, but in Gehlen's case they play a singularly important role. He is intensely and self-consciously "ideological" in his outlook. A surprising amount of his time is devoted to reading and discussing social, political, moral and religious issues. He keeps himself very well informed. Unfortunately, his lack of academic training deprives him of critical judgment, with the result that he is sometimes taken in by those warmed-over and carefully garnished variations of fascism, corporate democracy, and the like, so popular in Western Europe at the present time.

We suspect that his decision to save his organization by collaboration with the Western Allies (taken before the end of the war) and his subsequent position as the leader of a German organization, acting on behalf of the Americans, have had a lot to do with the development of his strong ideological bent. He has had to justify his position to the Americans, to the Germans who work under him and to himself.

The political position which he has worked out is quite unexceptional despite the occasional flaws noted above. He professes to stand for a united Western Europe built around a Franco-German axis, for collaboration with England and the United States, for social reform but not socialism, for the review of such occupation and postwar "injustices", as war crimes trials and some aspects of denazification. He does not favor the remilitarization of Germany, except as a part of Western European defense. In the intelligence field, he believes that a small country such as Germany should have a unified service.

The question now remains whether, once in office, Gehlen would serve the interests of the government and remain loyal to the Western Allies. It is our firm opinion that he would serve Adenauer loyally. As an officer, he is extremely well disciplined and has a strong respect for

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properly constituted authority. He is horrified by the romantic nationalism and indiscreet behavior of some of his former colleagues. He is not one to become involved in the cabals of officers and senior bureaucrats. He is cautious in political matters to a fault.

We think he will take direction well. He is a man of independent mind, more by force of circumstances than by choice. Adenauer and other senior German officials will experience no difficulty in handling him.

He will not be an American or Allied puppet in office. If he thinks that it is in the German interest to resist the Allies, he will attempt to do so. We are convinced, however, that he is sincerely interested in harmonious cooperation between the Germans and the Western Allies, and that he is capable of rising above petty dogmatism when the broad issues at stake are properly presented to him. We have always found him to be tractable.

We believe that he will try to avoid becoming involved in party politics. This does not mean that he is indifferent to politics but, rather, that he is ambitious only as an intelligence official. A review of his record shows that his most impressive trait is his ability to survive the storms around him in this capacity. During the war he managed to keep his organization intact and relatively undisturbed despite the furious vendetta which developed between the Abwehr under Canaris and the RSHA under Kaltenbrunner. The defeat of the Abwehr left Gehlen untouched although he certainly was a Canaris man. In 1945, Gehlen converted Germany's defeat into an intelligence alliance with the Americans in short order. In working with us under the occupation, Gehlen has made no secret of his desire to survive the end of the occupation as the head of an important intelligence activity.

One final word. Gehlen is an intelligence operator. The means he employs to achieve his ends are not always straight-forward. Like all other operators of any importance, he has a high regard for the security of his own operations and will lie like a gentleman, if need be.

Gordon M. Stewart

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